The Maturing of America – Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population

The "maturing of America" will have a direct and dramatic impact on the social, physical and fiscal fabric of our nation and its communities. In 2030, the number of Americans over age 65 is projected to be 71.5 million – or one in five people. The purpose of this survey is to assess the "aging readiness" of America's communities and identify solutions that will help cities and counties better meet the needs of an aging population and leverage the experience and talent of older Americans. The results of this survey will be publicized and ultimately compiled in a tool that communities can use to enhance their "aging readiness." Help us make this endeavor a success by completing and returning this survey no later than **Monday December 19, 2005**.

Thank you for your participation.

Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.
Executive Director, ICMA

The survey responses of individual local governments will not be released without the permission of the chief administrative officer or executive.

For purposes of this survey the term "older adult" refers to anyone age 60 and over. This age cutoff is used because it captures "baby boomers," who will have a significant impact on local governments over the next decades. If your local government uses a different age description for older adults, please answer the survey using your definition.

Programs and Services for Older Adults
Please indicate with a check mark whether the following programs and services are available in your community and check the boxes that best describe your local government's role. Check all that apply.

Is available regardless of provider: check this box if the program or service is available in your community regardless of who provides it. **Funds all or part of program:** check this box if all or part of the program is funded by your local government.

HEALTH	Local government role (Check all applicable.)					
Health care program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Access to health care services that meet a range of needs						
Access to prescription programs that meet a range of needs						
Transportation to and from medical appointments						
Wellness programs for older adults						
Preventive screenings, such as blood pressure, mammograms						
Immunizations, such as flu shots						
Other health care programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

Nutrition program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Communal meals, such as lunch at a rec. or senior center						
Nutrition education (e.g., heart-healthy diets, diabetes, food and drug interactions, preparing meals on a budget, etc.)						
Meals delivered to homes						
Other nutrition programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

Exercise program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Exercise classes tailored to specific health concerns, such as heart disease, arthritis						
Local parks and other venues that have safe, accessible walking/biking trails						
Other exercise programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

TRANSPORTATION		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Transportation program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Public transportation to and from senior centers, adult day services, grocery stores, pharmacies, faith communities, cultural events, etc.						
Discounted taxi cab and/or bus fares						
Dial-a-ride (e.g., door-to-door paratransit)						
Road design that meets the needs of older drivers (e.g. left turn lanes, road markings)						
Road signage that meets the needs of older drivers (e.g., large signs)						
Sidewalks and street crossings that are safe and accessible for older pedestrians (e.g., flashing walk signs, sidewalk bumpouts)						
Sidewalk system linking residences and essential services						
Other transportation programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY SERVICES		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Public safety/emergency services for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Elder abuse/neglect identification						
Elder abuse/neglect prevention						
Neighborhood Watch programs						
Plans for evacuation of older adults in the event of a natural disaster or homeland security event						
Emergency energy assistance program.						
Knowledge of where older adults reside so services (e.g., home-delivered meals) can be provided in severe weather or other situations that prevent residents from leaving their homes.						
Specialized training for staff in dealing with older adults						
Other public safety programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

HOUSING		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Housing program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Home maintenance/repair assistance and modification of existing home to accommodate the needs of older adults (e.g., building a ramp for easier access or modifying showers).						
Modification of service delivery to meet the needs of older adults (e.g., backyard trash collection).						
Subsidized housing						
Other housing programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

TAXATION AND FINANCE		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Taxation and finance program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Property tax relief for older adults on limited incomes						
Assistance with preparation of tax forms						
Education and information about financial fraud and predatory lending						
Other taxation/finance programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Workforce development program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Job retraining opportunities						
Flexible job opportunities (e.g., job sharing, part-time)						
Discounts for older adults who want to take classes at local colleges/universities						
Other workforce development programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Civic engagement/volunteer program/service for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
Seniors Corps programs (RSVP, Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents)						
Civic engagement/volunteer opportunities that use all adults, including older adults. Please describe.						
Other civic engagement/volunteer opportunities that specifically target older adults (e.g., inter-generational programs) *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

AGING/HUMAN SERVICES		Local government role (Check all applicable.)				
Aging/human services programs/services for older adults	Is available regardless of provider	Provides program	Funds all or part of program	Publicizes program	Partner in program	No role
In-home support services (e.g., home care, chore/homemaker services) that enable older adults to live independently						
Single entry point for services (e.g., one-stop for all services)						
Other programs/services *(please describe or provide general comments):*						

Policies/Guidelines That Benefit Older Adults

Does your local government have or plan to have any of the following policies/practices in place that benefit older adults?

POLICY	Local government has in place	Local government does not have in place	Local government is considering
Zoning requirements that support the development of *active older adult communities* (e.g., density levels, lots per acre)			
Building codes that support the development of *assisted living facilities* (e.g., codes that address mobility such as egress to accommodate wheelchairs)			
Zoning requirements, subdivision regulations or building codes that promote/support other senior housing options (e.g., shared housing, accessory apartments)			
Planning process that considers the needs of older adults			
Community design/redesign that supports walkability			

If there are additional policies or services that your community is planning or has already initiated for older adults please describe them in the space below:
_____
_____
_____

What are the top three challenges your community faces in meeting the needs of or planning for older adults? (Please list each on a separate line.)
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Community demographics

What is the population of your jurisdiction? _____

What age description does your local government use to identify "older adults?"

☐ 60+   ☐ 65+   ☐ Other (*Please describe.*)
_____

Is your community experiencing any **in-migration?** ☐ Yes   ☐ No

    If "yes," is it (*Check both if applicable.*)   ☐ Older adults   ☐ Minorities

Is your community experiencing any **out-migration?** ☐ Yes   ☐ No

    If "yes," is it (*Check both if applicable.*)   ☐ Older adults   ☐ Minorities

In the past three years, has your local government solicited information from older adults in your community to determine their needs (e.g., survey, needs assessment, town hall meeting)? ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Has your local government begun to plan for a growing senior population in your community? ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Does your local government have an advisory board or other mechanisms for older adult members to participate in planning for programs and/or services that benefit them? ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Which of the following best describes your community? ☐ Urban   ☐ Rural   ☐ Inner suburb   ☐ Outer suburb

Which of the following best describes your local government's current economic condition?

☐ Rapid expansion (more than 25%)   ☐ Slow decline (less than 10%)
☐ Moderate growth (10–25%)   ☐ Moderate decline (10–25%)
☐ Slow growth (less than 10%)   ☐ Rapid decline (more than 25%)
☐ Economic base is stable: no real growth or decline

Please share any additional comments you think would be important for us to know about your community in relation to an aging population.
_____
_____

Please provide contact information in case there is a need for follow up.

Name _____   Telephone number (_____)_____
Title _____   E-mail _____

Thank you for completing this important survey. Please use the enclosed envelope to return to the survey to ICMA, Survey Research Team, 777 North Capitol St., NE, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 20002.